

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

# MINUTES

Minutes of Meeting June 2, 2022,

Meeting called to order by Jason Biermann, Chairman, 9:00 AM

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## In Attendance – Introduction of Attendees

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**Sharon Wallace** requested the state of quorum; Adam Wasserman confirmed quorum was achieved.

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## Approval of Minutes

*Jason Biermann, Chair*

**Fred Brink** motioned to approve April 7, 2022; minutes as submitted.

**Chandra Fox** Seconded the Motion.

Without objection, the council unanimously approved the minutes as submitted.

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## Opening Comments

*Director Robert Ezelle, Jim Baumgart, and General Daugherty*

**Jason Biermann** introduced new members Jasper Bruner, representing the Makkah Tribe; Jeff Choke, representing the Nisqually Tribe; and Elizabeth Sanchey, representing the Yakima Tribe; and Andrew Rose, who will be representing the Department of Health (DOH) in place of Nathan Weed. Jason then announced the departure of Phil Lemley of the Association of Washington Cities and the intention to seek an alternative to replace him.

**General Dan Dent** gave opening remarks on behalf of General Daugherty.

**Director Robert Ezelle** Welcomed Jim Baumgart as the new addition to the Military Department's Intergovernmental Affairs team, taking over for Nancy Bickford, who retired earlier in the month.

The director updated the council on Cascadia Rising 2022 (CR22), which focused on Critical Transportation and Mass Care Services. Robert discussed the pandemic task force and current focus on activation such as the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and Monkey Pox. Robert also touched on the upcoming fire season, hoping for the continuation of unseasonably cool weather.

**Jim Baumgart** Introduced himself as the Intergovernmental Affairs and Policy Director for the Military Department and announced that Sonia Hallum would be taking over his position with the Governor's office. He discussed the previous legislative session and its success due, in part, to the support and advocacy of the Emergency Management Committee.

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## Regional Issues Impacting Washington

*Willie Nunn, Regional Administrator, FEMA Region X*

**Willie Nunn** discussed ongoing response planning for the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) and state-led exercises. Willie mentioned he would attend the National Advisory Council Meeting in Idaho, which has four work groups that affect the EMC.

- Equity
- Climate
- Readiness
- Workforce

Willie talked about The Wildfire Summit, hosted by FEMA Region 9 in California back in April, where they discussed firefighting, FMAG, grant declarations, private property debris removal, Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs), and hazardous tree removal. He also mentioned that he met with the Washington Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Management and Emergency Planning. They discussed using them as a resource to ensure disaster assistance gets to everyone who needs it.

He mentioned the development of emergency management course G197, which integrates access and functional needs within interior emergency management planning.

- Curry Mayer asked if the AFN Class is an in-person or independent study course and if it is available or still in development. Willie answered that it was still in development as of the day prior but that he would get Curry more information.
- Jason commented that more activities are funded through the regional catastrophic preparedness grant program and thanked FEMA for the support of the Puget Sound region.

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## Open Public Forum

*Jason Biermann, Chair*

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### Open to questions or discussion –

No discussion presented

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## Meet-a-Member

**Chandra Fox** introduced herself as the deputy director of Emergency Management for Spokane County and a career Emergency Manager. She started her career in January of 1999 with the Emergency Services Coordinating Agency on the west and north of Seattle. Chandra mentioned she loves her job and is a true believer in the mission of Emergency Management, stating that it is a foundational piece of public safety, adding that what we do is essential.

Chandra said we need to do a better job of ensuring all our partners across all levels of government and private sectors understand what we do and the collaboration that needs to happen to make effective Emergency Management work. She stated that her door, email, and phone line are always open for questions.

**Bill Gillespie** introduced himself as a native Washingtonian who graduated from Central Washington University and spent 47 years working in IT with over 20 years working for AT&T and over 20 years working with three different agencies in Washington State. He has volunteered for 50 years with the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and several other organizations related to Emergency Response and helping the community. He mentioned he has 30 years of working with SAR and became the president of the Search and Rescue Volunteer Advisory Council, representing about 2700 SAR volunteers across Washington. Bill spoke about his two daughters, who are also involved in emergency management.

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## Current and Recurring Emergency Management Issues

### COVID-19

- DOH News – Andrew Rose, DOH
- Andy gave high-level updates offering to answer any questions that may come up. Highlights included:
  - An uptick in COVID cases
  - Jiffy Recall- Salmonella
  - Infant Formula shortage
  - TB outbreak- 21+ counties
  - HPAI- 9 Counties
  - Monkeypox- 1 case confirmed
  - Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)
  - Child Hepatitis-24 states
  - Vaccine Hesitancy across the state
- Joann Boggs asked Andy about extended expiration dates on COVID tests. Andy responded that the LHJ should be able to answer those questions, and if not, contact him at [Andrew.Rose@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Andrew.Rose@doh.wa.gov).

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## Work Session: Charter

*Jason Biermann, Chair*

### Review and Discuss Charter update:

Sharon Wallace reviewed and adjusted the charter to reflect changes.

- Membership
  - Added representatives from the Coroners and Medical Examiners' field
  - Added representatives for Federally recognized Tribes for Eastern and Western Washington
- Elections
  - Clarified the nomination process to adhere to Roberts Rules of Order.
  - The chair will accept nominations before the last meeting.
  - According to Robert's Rules, the agency must submit nominations 30 days in advance; we will vote on changes in the next meeting.
- Ad hoc committee, subcommittee, and workgroups
  - Provide a written report to the council chair and EMD three weeks before the scheduled council meeting.
- Bill Gillespie asked if the coroners and medical examiners had appointed someone to be a member. Sharon responded, yes, they have attended the last several meetings.

Sharon will send a grammatical correction in the next round, at least 30 days in advance, to vote on in the August meeting.

Jason expressed his appreciation for Sharon and the team working to get materials out to the EMC early enough to have a chance to read through them.

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### **Work Session: Annual Report**

*Jason Biermann, Chair*

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#### Review Final Draft

Jason thanked the team who worked on the Annual report, stating that this should be the final draft and that there should only be a little bit of tweaking, depending on the feedback, and opened the floor for comments.

#### IMTs

Bill Gillespie expressed concern with the IMT section, mentioning that he did not feel it clearly states a couple of different issues.

- Several smaller counties struggled significantly trying to work between the health districts, health departments, Emergency Management, and other organizations while trying to put together an IMT, which caused a great deal of delay in getting people into Covid vaccination centers.
- There is no legal foundation for IMT. Nothing in state law mentions IMT, where the legal foundation comes from, or the legal authority to appoint one. It should point out that there needs to be some work on this matter due to the significant legal concerns.

Jason said he would like to turn it over to those who worked on the report to address Bill's first concern and went on to say regarding Bill's second concern, part of the intent of the recommendation is to create more concrete support for IMT.

Chandra Fox stated that her initial response is that his concern is not so much about developing an IMT as it was challenging jurisdictions to stand up a unified command, noting the difference between unified command for an incident and the application of an IMT. She explained that the report explicitly addressed those jurisdictions that requested outside assistance in the form of an IMT and brought that support and structure into their jurisdiction. Bill clarified that he understood that but felt the report missed a significant point. The smaller entities struggled with the idea of a unified command. There needs to be a legal foundation for both IMTs and Unified Command and additional education about it.

Chandra mentioned that the recommendation addressed this and turned the concern over to Arel Solie to address how we adjust the state mobilization law.

Jason added that it might be important to encourage those smaller jurisdictions you're talking about to do an after-action process and highlight those issues of deconflicting unified command.

### Public/Private Partnerships

Eli King asked if someone connected with Tristan Allen from the Department of Commerce to discuss how they supported the private partnership with the transition of some of our local manufacturers to start developing PPE or not.

Kyle Bustad responded that they worked on efforts to engage private entities to manufacture PPE. The intent is to go back through those things in more detail and figure out how to leverage them in a more structured way.

Eli mentioned highlighting the success and work that went into the private sector remanufacturing along with distilleries to meet the need for hand sanitizer during the shortage. Jason explained the aim was to create a more structured plan, and he didn't think the workgroup could capture all the instances where the private sector jumped in to fill needs on an ad hoc basis. Jason agreed that these are great examples. The group decided to leave that decision up to the developers of the document.

### All Risk Mobilization

No comments

### Hazard Mitigation Risk Reduction

No comments

### Final Steps

- The Military Department's Communications office is working on incorporating minor grammatical changes in the report.
- There will be an executive summary, and a wrap-up included.
- We will send the document back out to be reviewed by the EMC.
- At the end of the month, we will send the document to the Governor's office via Sonia Hallam.

### Final Comments

Arel and Andrew addressed Eli's earlier comments regarding including more information about the successes, noting that while they agree that it is important to keep track of those success stories and be able to share them, this report is not the place to include them.

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## **CR22 Update**

***Troy Newman***

Troy briefly discussed the schedule and agenda are moving forward for CR22.

- Monday, June 13: Critical Transportation beginning with a plenary session and moving into three breakout sessions
  - Coastal
  - I-5 Corridor
  - East of the Cascades
- Tuesday, June 14: Crossover Event
- Wednesday, June 15: Mass Care Services beginning with a plenary session and moving into three breakout sessions
  - Coastal
  - I-5 Corridor
  - East of the Cascades
- Thursday, June 16: Hotwash

Michael shared slides and gave an overview of the Catastrophic Incident Annex (CIA). . The Catastrophic Incident Annex (CIA) is live on the EMD website and executive summary is in its final stages of review. Michael talked about the planning structure:

- Strategic Level-Base Plan & Tabs
  - CIA based Plan
  - Critical Transportation tab
  - Mass Care tab
  - Infrastructure Systems tab
  - Operational Coordination tab
  - Situational Awareness tab
  - Logistics and Supply Chain Management tab
  - Operational Communications Tab
- Operational Level- Appendices
  - CSZ Specific Plan
- Tactical Level- Checklists, Flow Charts, Decision Matrices, etc.

#### Contacts

Troy Newman- Preparedness Section Manager EMD Office (253) 433-5163 <a href="mailto:Troy.Newman@mil.wa.gov">Troy.Newman@mil.wa.gov</a>	Shane Moore- Catastrophic Planner EMD Office (253) 512-7052 <a href="mailto:Shane.Moore@mil.wa.gov">Shane.Moore@mil.wa.gov</a>
Michael Roberson- Planning Supervisor & SCIPT Chair EMD Office: (253) 625-3943 <a href="mailto:Michael.Roberson@mil.wa.gov">Michael.Roberson@mil.wa.gov</a>	Kirk Holmes- SCIPT Co-Chair Perteet Inc <a href="mailto:Kirk.Holmes@perteet.com">Kirk.Holmes@perteet.com</a>

#### Comments

Eli mentioned in chat that they are addressing fuel through the State Fuel Action Plan. She has been working with Michael and his team on the energy aspects. They are in the final stages of drafting the first State Fuel Action Plan, which covers how fuel would be allocated and distributed in the state during a regional disruption. We will distribute the Fuel Action Pan for review to the Fuel Planning Workgroup and the larger community for a public review period—developing a new state energy security plan, which will provide a framework for the rest of the energy sector.

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#### **EMD Decision Packages**

**Robert Ezelle**

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Robert announced that we have a very aggressive legislative agenda going into the long session.

- Funding for the disaster response account to support ongoing activations.
- Public Assistance grants individual assistance to communities for flooding.
- Funding to go into the DRA.
- Trying to stabilize staffing that directly supports the EOC and ongoing escalating pace of activations.
- Trying to provide a baseline of FTEs which can start working on modernizing emergency communications.
- Addressing the ongoing mitigation efforts in the state by codifying the state providing half the local cost-share.
- Looking for two mitigation personnel to help local jurisdictions flesh out their mitigation projects to increase the participation of small and impoverished communities.
- Looking for a couple of FTEs to help create robust cyber capabilities.
- Looking for funding to support credentialing and standardization among IMTs.
- Putting together a decision package that would look at state active duty and build some capacity to train and mobilize better to facilitate the deployment and reconstitution of guard units when the national guard is used to support incidents and disasters.

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**Closing Remarks**

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**General Daniel Dent** expressed his appreciation for the discussion.

**Robert Ezelle** echoed General Dent's sentiments.

**Jason Bierman** discussed the next EMC meeting on August 4, 2022. He asked the group by a show of hand how many would be in favor of an in-person meeting at Camp Murray. The group showed general support.

**Sharon Wallace** agreed to send out updated requirements to access the base.

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**Adjournment**

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*Jason Biermann, Chair*

Meeting Adjourned at 1040

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**Attendees**

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**EMC Members and Alternates**

Position	Name	Council Position (RCW 38.52.040)	2-Jun
1	Fred Brink	Primary Association of WA Business	x
Pos 1 Alt	Philip Lemley	Alternate Association of WA Business	
2	Stephanie Wright	WA State Association of Counties	x
Pos 2 Alt	Gene Strong	WA State Association of Counties	
3	Chief Scott Engle	WA Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs	
Pos 3 Alt	Chief Peter Fisher	WA Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs	x
4	Chief John Batiste	Washington State Patrol	
Pos 4 Alt	Arel Solie	Washington State Patrol	x
5	Robert Ezelle	EMD Director	x
Pos 5 Alt	Adam Wasserman	EMD Acting Deputy Director	
6	Jim Pendowski	Dept of Ecology	x
Pos 6 Alt	VACANT	Dept of Ecology	
7	Chief Chad Cross (as of 11.2021)	WA State Fire Marshal's Office	x
Pos 7 Alt	Melissa Gannie	WA State Fire Marshal's Office	
8	Chief Michael Harris	WA Association of Fire Chiefs	
Pos 8 Alt	Chief Brian Schaeffer	WA Association of Fire Chiefs	
9	Hilary Franz	Department of Natural Resources	
Pos 9 Alt	Casey Hanell	Department of Natural Resources	x
10	Chandra Fox	Washington State EMD Association	x

Pos 10 Alt	Kyle Bustad	Washington State EMD Association	x
11	JoAnn Boggs	Local Emergency Managers Directors	x
Pos 11 Alt	Jason Biermann	Local Emergency Managers Directors	x
12	Bill Gillespie	St of WA Search & Rescue Volunteer Advisory Group	x
Pos 12 Alt	John O'Rourke	St of WA Search & Rescue Volunteer Advisory Group	
13	Andrew Rose	Department of Health	x
Pos 13 Alt	Ron Weaver	Department of Health	
14	Doug Powell	Washington Association of Building Officials	x
Pos 14 Alt	Quyen Thai	Washington Association of Building Officials	x
15	Greg Welch	Private Industry	x
Pos 15 Alt	Gary Chandler	Private Industry	
16	John Himmel	Washington State Department of Transportation	x
Pos 16 Alt	VACANT	Washington State Department of Transportation	
17	Kirk Holmes	American Public Works Association	
Pos 17 Alt	Jennifer Bailey	American Public Works Association	x
18	Martin Mueller	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction	x
Pos 18 Alt	Mike Donlin	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction	
Pos 19	Nick Henderson	Coroner/ME	
Pos 19 ALT	Dr. Nichole Yarid	ME/Coroner	